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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BELORUSSIAN PARTY SECRETARY
SHEDS LIGHT ON PARTY-STATE RELATIONS

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.

A striking illustration of the degree of direct control which Communist Party organs may exercise over government organs appeared in a report on the 20th Congress of the KP(b) of Belorussia, published in the Minsk newspaper Sovetskaya Belorussiya in September 1952.

At the congress, N. S. Patolichev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Belorussia, sharply criticized "workers in the Council of Ministers of the republic" for "keeping silent" and not aiding the Central Committee in uncovering shortcomings in the work of republic ministries and ministerial departments. Patolichev's statements were part of his concluding remarks in the debate on the report of the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Belorussia to the congress, held during the last week of September 1952. Continuing his criticism, Patolichev informed the delegates that "for such an approach to work, a few days ago the Central Committee of the KP(b) of Belorussia relieved Comrade Shavrov of his responsibilities as Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Belorussian SSR."(1)

This action of the Belorussian party Central Committee violates the constitutional authority of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium in the matter of appointments and removals of members of the Council of Ministers.

If the conduct of the Belorussian party Central Committee was considered reprehensible by higher party or government organs, no recognition of that fact appeared in the Soviet press. Patolichev himself was elevated in the party hierarchy by his appointment in October 1952, announced in Pravda on 17 October, as an alternate member of the newly organized Presidium of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.(2)

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Not until November 1952 were the belated legal formalities taken care of. On 1 November 1952, Sovetskaya Belorussiya announced that "the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet Belorussian SSR has relieved A. S. Shavrov of his duties as Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Belorussian SSR."(3)

SOURCES

1. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 26 Sep 52
2. Moscow, Pravda, 17 Oct 52
3. Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 1 Nov 52

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